

## What Disturbs You More?

Those who affirm allegiance to Almighty God should endeavor to live life in a way that is pleasing to Him. This ought to be the fundamental goal of any true disciple of the Lord. The apostle Paul put it best when he wrote – “Therefore we make it our aim whether present or absent, to be well pleasing to Him” (2 Cor. 5:9).

If one is to be successful in his attempts to please God, he must work to internalize the views and values that God has. In a nutshell, he must try to think and act in a righteous way; he must strive to imitate Jesus the Christ (1 Cor. 11:1). Admittedly, it is impossible for us to understand many things about the Lord and His ways because He is superior to us in every way (Isa. 55:9). Nevertheless, we can study and understand that which the Scriptures reveal. We can know from the Bible that God values certain qualities (such as mercy, truth, and love), and He despises other qualities (such as hypocrisy, materialism, and pride). He views other things as trivial (such as our physical possessions and worldly accomplishments). But, the real question is: How do we view these things? Do we value that which God values, or do we value that which He deems trivial or perhaps that which He despises? If something disturbs God, does it disturb us? It should.

Let’s consider some examples. Think on the following questions and answer them as honestly as you can.

- Which disturbs you more: A scratch on your new car or a person who is lost in sin?
- Which disturbs you more: Missing work or missing a worship service?
- Which disturbs you more: Your garden not growing or the church not growing?
- Which disturbs you more: Housework that is neglected or the Lord’s work that is neglected?
- Which disturbs you more: Your children absent from public school or from Bible school?
- Which disturbs you more; Not paying your bills on time or not giving as you are prospered?
- Which disturbs you more: Not getting the newspaper read or not opening up your Bible daily?
- Which disturbs you more: Missing your favorite TV program or missing mid-week Bible study?
- Which disturbs you more: Not getting to spend time in leisure or not spending much time in prayer?
- Which disturbs you more: Being unprepared for a vacation or being unprepared for eternity?

It’s easy to know what God’s views are in regard to those ten questions, but what about our views? Sometimes it is difficult to be truthful with ourselves and admit that we are a far cry from being more like the Lord in what we value and in what disturbs us. None of us are perfect, and without a doubt there is room for improvement in all of us. May we never forget the truth and become satisfied with our current level of spiritual maturity. Donald